



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Board of Education Board Room
1300 17th Street, City CENTRE – Bakersfield, CA 93301

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present

Julie A. Beechinor

Lori J. Cisneros

Lori Eskew

Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr.

Mary M. Little

Joe L. Marcano

James V. Robinson

Anai Valencia

KCSOS Employees Present

Dr. John G. Mendiburu, *Superintendent*

Christian Shannon, *Deputy Superintendent*

Steve Sanders, *Chief of Staff*

Merril Clanton, *Senior Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent*

1.4 It was moved by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve the agenda.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

1.5 It was moved by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve the Minutes from January 14, 2025.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

2.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Wayne Wong
- Dennis McLean
- Matthew Garrett
- Tonya Holt
- Glenn Clayton
- Jan Lundy
- Paula Bray

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

3.1 Mock Trial Presentation.

3.2 Leaders in Life Presentation.

3.3 Child Trafficking Awareness Presentation.

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Consent Agenda

4.1.1 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Ms. Cisneros to approve the Graduation Diplomas.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Public hearing regarding the REALMS Charter Renewal Petition.
No Action Taken

4.2.2 Accept and File the Mid-Year 2024-25 LCAP Update.
No Action Taken

4.2.3 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve the 2023-2024 Annual Audit Report.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 4.2.4 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve the 2023-2024 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Court and Community Schools.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

- 4.2.5 California School Boards Association 2025 Delegate Assembly Ballot
No Action Taken

5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

- 5.1 Trustee Marcano praised the students involved in the Mock Trial Presentation, noting their impressive skills, talent, and professionalism. He expressed hope that the students would continue their path and pursue law school. Additionally, he shared that he had recently finished a trial, where he successfully worked on behalf of “the people,” resulting in taking one less murderer off the streets.
- 5.2 Trustee Eskew shared that she was impressed by the Mock Trial Presentation and found it to be very engaging. She reflected on the human trafficking discussion, noting how it brought back memories of her work in institutions and how perspectives on victims have changed over the years. She expressed her support for efforts to combat human trafficking and mentioned participating in related workshops and outreach events. Trustee Eskew also shared some personal experiences, such as attending the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and was pleased to discover their affiliation with KCSOS. Additionally, she visited a Holocaust Memorial at Chabad, which she found extremely moving.
- 5.3 Trustee Cisneros welcomed the new Student Representative, Anai Valencia, encouraging her to participate when she feels ready. She thanked the staff for setting up online access to curriculum, which she is exploring and promised a future update on her thoughts. Trustee Cisneros expressed her appreciation for being invited to the Bakersfield Prayer Breakfast, where prayers for wisdom and strength were offered for those involved in education, and expressed gratitude for such community support. She mentioned a question about the President’s Executive Order related to dissolving the United States Department of Education and its potential effects on Kern County, indicating a desire for more information on this matter. Finally, she expressed enthusiasm for a potential spring barbecue event, volunteering to help with planning and inviting participation from fellow trustees and the Anai.
- 5.4 Trustee Robinson expressed disappointment that there was no press present for such an important topic as human trafficking, especially after other topics, like the Ten Commandments, had garnered more attention. He acknowledged the importance and emotional impact of the presentation on human trafficking and thanked the speakers for their hard-hitting discussion. He emphasized the need for awareness and fundraising for organizations like the Kern Coalition against Human Trafficking (KCAT) and encouraged the board to engage in efforts to support such initiatives. He also extended a warm welcome to student trustee Anai Valencia and advised her to keep an open mind as she engages in her new role.

- 5.5 Trustee Little expressed that attending the Prayer Breakfast was an honor and a privilege, highlighting that Dr. Mendiburu humbly sat at the Dais. She stated that she felt very proud of him for representing the KCBOE and KCSOS.
- 5.6 Student Representative Valencia commented that she appreciated Ms. Perkins sharing her brave story.

6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu attended the Bakersfield Prayer Breakfast, serving as a representative of Kern County educators. His presence at the event highlighted the dedication and commitment of educators to the community. During the meeting, he provided updates on several educational topics, including the potential impacts of recent executive orders, such as those related to the United States Department of Education and school sports participation policies. Dr. Mendiburu emphasized the importance of staying informed and assured the board that more information would be communicated as it becomes available. He also discussed ongoing efforts to address issues related to immigrant student attendance following a statewide initiative that impacted school participation.

7.0 CLOSED SESSION

- 7.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(*Subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9*)
Name of case: C.T. v. Kern County Board of Education; Case No. BCV-23-100890

8.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 There were no recommendations for item consideration for the next board meeting.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 9.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 11, 2025.
- 9.2 The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D., Superintendent